GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:193
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Trade with Iran
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) whether the Government has agreed to sign any free trade agreement with Iran;
b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued as a result thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be implemented;
c) whether Iran has shown interest in the trade of tea, pharma and edible items with India;
d) if so, whether trade of all these items are likely to be covered under oil agreement; and
e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a)&(b): No, Sir. However, in the 17th Session of the Joint Commission between India and Iran held in May, 2013, it was agreed to commerce preliminary consultation between the concerned Ministries of both sides for a Preferential Trade Agreement(PTA). In the first meeting of Joint Working Group on Trade and Commerce held in April, 2015 in Tehran, both sides agreed to examine the scope and the feasibility of entering into a PTA. In the second meeting of the Joint Working Group held on 18-19 November, 2015 in New Delhi both sides agreed, inter-alia, to open up a channel for exchange of information, etc for this purpose.

(c) : Yes Sir.

(d) &(e): The Rupee payment arrangement with Iran is in place to (i) ease payment in respect of imports of oil and (ii) help facilitate payment to exporters in rupees.
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